

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-33 are currently pending. Claims 1-25 have been amended. Claims 26-33 have been withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to more particularly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the amendments are found throughout the specification. Claims 2-16 and 18-25 have been amended to insert a comma before the word "wherein".

Amendments to the claims are made without prejudice and do not constitute amendments to overcome any prior art or other statutory rejections. Additionally, these amendments are not an admission regarding the patentability of subject matter of the canceled or amended claims and should not be so construed. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the previously filed claims in this or in any other appropriate patent application.

Restriction Requirement

With respect to the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-25, allegedly drawn to a method of identifying a candidate branching morphogenesis modulating agent, for prosecution on the merits. In addition, the Applicant elects the following species: (1) assay- cell proliferation assay; (2) assay system- matrix implant assay; and (3) agent- nucleic acid modulator. The claims readable thereon are claims 1-25.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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